

REMARKS

Pending claims

The pending claims are 9-11.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner requires restriction of the claims to either invention I (claims 2, 3, and 5) or invention II (claims 9-11). The applicants elect claims 9-11 (invention II), while reserving the right to pursue a patent on the invention defined claims 2, 3, 5, and 8 in a separate application.

Just for the record, I (the attorney) would like to mention that I did attempt to return the Examiner's 19 December 2005 phone message, which, unfortunately, got cut off by my answering machine before I could hear how the Examiner grouped the claims. I left a message of my own on 21 December 2005, which may have understandably been missed in the very busy time just before the holidays. The Office action and this amendment make everything clear, however.

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Respectfully submitted,



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